



ARIZONA FIRE & MEDICAL AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Committee Chairman Becker called the meeting to order on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 2:45 p.m. The meeting was held both virtually and in person due to social distancing requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members Present: Committee Chairman Bill Becker, Committee Vice Chairman Tony Sambol and Committee Member John Crawford

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Fire Chief Rob Biscoe, Assistant Chief Mary Dalton, Assistant Chief Chris DeChant, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Eric Kriwer, Division Chief Kane Nixon, Finance Director Rebecca Chitwood, Human Resources Director Shauna Fisher, and Administrative Director Dawn Miller

Legal Counsel: Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Lee Miller

Public Comment: None

Media Present: None

Guests Present: North County Fire & Medical District Board Members Richard Bookie, David Wilson, and James Young; South County Fire & Medical District Board Members Karen Gueltzow and Diane Price; Captain Scott Dial and Paramedic Doug Costal,

2. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Approve Governance & Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes—February 16, 2021.

Committee Member Crawford moved that the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes be approved. Committee Vice Chairman Sambol seconded the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Becker, Crawford, Sambol
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

B. Discussion and Possible Action Relating to Fire District Safety Act Ballot Proposition.

Assistant Chief Dalton gave an update regarding the Fire District Safety Act Ballot Proposition. Assistant Chief Dalton stated that the Professional Firefighters of Arizona are working in conjunction with the Arizona Fire District Association and the Arizona Fire Chief’s Association to prepare a ballot initiative which would provide Arizona’s Fire Districts with vital funding for essential emergency services. Assistant Chief Dalton noted that this is the highest legislative priority for fire districts for this legislative season. All Board Member questions were answered.

C. Discussion and Possible Action Relating to Smart and Safe Fund (Recreational Marijuana) Distributions.

Mary Dalton, Assistant Chief, provided the Committee with an update on the distribution related issues regarding the Smart and Safe Fund. Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Lee Miller noted that work is being done at the legislative level to clarify the distributions from the Smart and Safe Fund language for Joint Powers Authorities. All Board Member questions were answered.

D. Discussion and Possible Action Relating to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fire District Assistance Request.

Committee Chairman Becker read a prepared statement regarding funding for a vaccine incentive program. Assistant Chief Dalton gave an update regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fire district assistance requests. Assistant Chief Dalton noted that several letters have been sent to the Board of Supervisors requesting funding for a vaccine incentive program and for premium pay. A discussion ensued about various options. The Committee Members recommended that the AFMA Board approve funding for a vaccine incentive program. All Board Member questions were answered.

E. Discussion and Possible Action Relating to the Authority’s Electric Utility Owned Land Analysis.

Division Chief Kane Nixon gave an overview regarding the results of the Authority’s recent electric utility owned land analysis. Potential strategies to address the impact that the listed properties have on the Authority were discussed. Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Lee Miller discussed the option of hiring a consultant to assist the Authority.. Further discussion regarding this item will occur at a future AFMA Board meeting. All Board Member questions were answered.

F. Discuss and Possible Action Relating to the Preliminary 2022 Legislative Session.

Assistant Chief Dalton gave an update regarding the 2022 Legislative Session. Assistant Chief Dalton stated that the highest legislative priority for the Arizona Fire District Association is the Fire District Safety Act. Other priorities for the Association include: an amendment to the Certificates of Participation (COP) language, changes to clarify the Joint Powers Authorities process in receiving Smart and Safe Fund Distributions, changes with fire district bonds to address mergers and consolidations and assisting with the worker’s comp pool funding. All Board Member questions were answered.

3. **SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS**

Future agenda items were reviewed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

William Becker

[William Becker \(Aug 21, 2023 16:38 PDT\)](#)

Bill Becker, Chairman
AFMA Governance & Legislative Committee

12.14.21 Governance and Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes - Final

Final Audit Report

2023-08-21

Created:	2023-08-14
By:	Dusty Christopherson (dchristopherson@afma.az.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAANga-_ac2RvP3gFVVdas4jn1vKLi0xyhs

"12.14.21 Governance and Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes - Final" History

-  Document created by Dusty Christopherson (dchristopherson@afma.az.gov)
2023-08-14 - 11:02:31 PM GMT- IP address: 66.210.247.226
-  Document emailed to bbecker@afma.az.gov for signature
2023-08-14 - 11:03:01 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by bbecker@afma.az.gov
2023-08-21 - 11:32:57 PM GMT- IP address: 72.208.100.223
-  New document URL requested by bbecker@afma.az.gov
2023-08-21 - 11:33:13 PM GMT- IP address: 72.208.100.223
-  Signer bbecker@afma.az.gov entered name at signing as William Becker
2023-08-21 - 11:38:29 PM GMT- IP address: 72.208.100.223
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Signature Date: 2023-08-21 - 11:38:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 72.208.100.223
-  Agreement completed.
2023-08-21 - 11:38:31 PM GMT